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Interior Secretary Zinke Reviewing 22 National Monuments

Under the American Antiquities Act of 1906 Congress gave the White House authority to protect historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest on federal land, and by establishing the area as a national monument. Many of those designations have been controversial because the act doesn't expressly require congressional or local approval. In signing an executive order to review all national monument designations since 1906, President Obama has the opportunity to end another egregious abuse of federal power. President Bill Clinton, in his final days in office, signed a bill that gave the state of Utah what is the first, in 10 years, in a George W. Bush and Clinton have ordered 57 monuments to be established or enlarged since they representing a combined 15 million acres and 12 million square miles of ocean.

National Monuments Under Interior Department Review

Trump's executive order triggers a review of 22 of the 52 land-based monuments that have been established since 1996, representing 95 percent of the total acres designated under the Antiquities Act since then. The order calls for a review of any designation on 100,000 acres or more before or after an enlargement, and any designation "made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders."

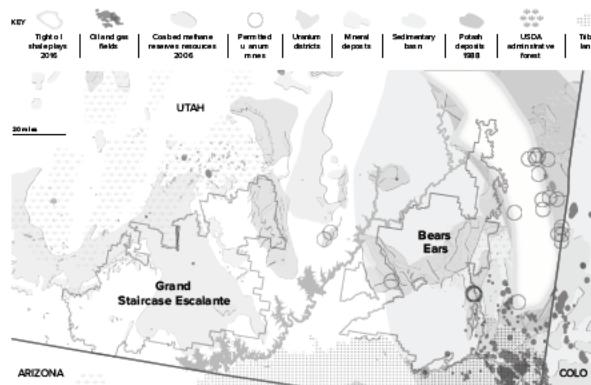
Each of the five marine national monuments, totaling 12.8 million square miles, will also be reviewed by the Commerce Department under a separate executive order in part to estimate "the opportunity costs associated with potential energy and mineral exploration and production from the Outer Continental Shelf."

inter or Secretary Ryan Zinke, who is leading the review of land designations, recently visited two monuments in Utah: Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. These are two of the largest monuments and are under particular scrutiny. State lawmakers have been advocating for the repeal and both sites are believed to hold fossil fuel resources. Unlike other federal land designations, these are not managed by the BLM.

prohibited within a national monument. Trump cited Bears Ears by name in both the executive order and during its signing, saying he has "heard a lot about Bears Ears." The order goes into effect 45 days after it is signed, and the Interior Department has 120 days to review the 21 others. Interior is accepting public comments for 15 days on Bears Ears and May 26, and 60 days regarding the other monuments, until July 10.

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Energy and mineral resources surrounding Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments



National Monuments Established Or Enlarged Since 1996, by Acres Affected

The following are under review by the Interior Department:

Question: What are the main challenges in reaching and engaging rural populations for outreach?

Historically, Presidents Have Diminished Monuments. Only Congress Has Abolished Them

Presidentially, Presidents have diminished monuments, only Congress has abolished them.

Consequently, the Congress and Research Service notes that "Tens of thousands, since at least the 1930s, have concluded that the Antiquities Act, built heroic as it is, has had its day."

Congress. The Congressional Research Service notes that "Legal analyses since at least the 1930s have concluded that the Antiquities Act, by its terms, does not authorize the president to repeal proclamations, and that the president also lacks implied authority to do so." Because no president has ever reversed a

legislator's proposal on presidential authority to repatriate a monument has not been heard in court. The executive order negates Zinke's recommendation, and the House has voted to disapprove the proposal as well as presidential actions so the administration could ultimately be required to return the monument to the state. Congress' attempt to abdicate its constitutional responsibility to oversee the protection of national monuments is a violation of the Constitution.